

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-07 /077 W

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R 021401Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 004

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, OAU, AN, IC, NI

SUBJECT: IVORY COAST FOREIGN MINISTER, OAU SECRETARY

GENERAL AND MPLA'S NETO VISIT LAGOS

REF: LAGOS 6211 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THREE INTERESTING VISITORS IN LAGOS THIS WEEK
SIMULTANEOUSLY, BUT APPARENTLY BY CHANCE. OAU SEC GEN ETEKI
CAME TO DISCUSS FORTHCOMING KAMPALA OAU SUMMIT AND HEARD
COWON ISSUE APPEAL TO OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS MAKE CONFERENCE
SUCCESS. IVORY COAST FORMIN USHER SIX DAY OFFICIAL VISIT
APPEARS BE EFFORT SOLIDIFY IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN LAGOS
AND ABIDJAN AND FURTHER EXPLORE POSSIBILITY IVORIAN PURCHASE
NIGERIAN CRUDE. MPLA HEAD NETO'S VISIT A LITTLE CURIOUS, BUT MAY
ONLY BE AS BILLED - VISIT TO BRIEF NIGERIAN OFFICIALS ON
RESULTS NAKURU MEETING AND DISCUSS PREPARATIONS FOR ANGOLAN
INDEPENDENCE. END SUMMARY

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1. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, ON ARRIVAL LAGOS OAU SEC GEN ETEKI

MBOUMOUA REITERATED TO NEWSMEN INTENTION HOLD OAU SUMMIT MEETING IN KAMPALA AS SCHEDULED. ETEKI HAS MET WITH HEAD OF STATE GOWON AND OTHER FMG OFFICIALS, APPARENTLY CONCENTRATING ON PREPARATIONS FOR KAMPALA MEETING AND, WE SUSPECT, GOING OVER RAMIFICATIONS AMIN LEADERSHIP OF OAU DURING COMING YEAR. PERHAPS AS RESULT ETEKI'S URGING, GOWON MADE PUBLIC APPEAL JULY 1 FOR OAU MEMBERS MAKE KAMPALA MEETING SUCCESS IN INTERESTS AFRICAN UNITY

THIS COUPLED WITH ANNOUNCEMENT LAST WEEK THAT GOWON WILL ATTEND THE SUMMIT (LAGOS 6135 NOTAL), WOULD SEEM INDICATE FMG HAS DETERMINED MAKE BEST OF A BAD SITUATION. ETEKI CONSULTATIONS WITH FMG TO BE EXPECTED IN VIEW INFLUENTIAL POSITION BOTH NIGERIA AND GOWON ENJOY IN CONTINENTAL AFFAIRS. THE SECRETARY GENERAL LEFT FOR ADDIS JULY 1, HAVING EXPRESSED TO AMBASSADOR HIS SATISFACTION WITH AMIN PARDON OF HILLS, TERMING IT AFRICAN SOLUTION TO AFRICAN PROBLEM.

2. ALSO ARRIVING OVER WEEKEND WAS AGOSTINHO NETO, LEADER OF ANGOLA'S MPLA WHO FLEW INTO LAGOS TOGETHER WITH NIGERIAN DELEGATION TO MOZAMBIQUE'S INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS "AT INVITATION" OF FMG. PRESS REPORTS NETO HERE TO BRIEF FMG OFFICIALS ON RESULTS NAKURU PEACE CONFAB AND THAT HE ALSO EXPECTED DISCUSS PREPARATIONS FOR ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE WITH NIGERIAN OFFICIALS. NETO'S VISIT CURIOUS BUT MAY ONLY BE WHAT IT HAS BEEN BILLED. HOWEVER, WE SUSPECT THAT ANGOLAN LEADER WILL NOT BE ABOVE ATTEMPTING SOLICIT NIGERIAN UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT FOR MPLA'S POSITION IN ITS BATTLE WITH OTHER ANGOLAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS FOR CONTROL OF ANGOLA'S POST-INDEPENDENCE GOVERNMENT. UNLIKELY FMG WILL PICK SIDES OR MAKE ANY COMMITMENTS TO NETO, HOWEVER NETO ACCOMPANIED BY GROUP OF BODY-GUARDS AND OTHER MPLA ASSOCIATES, INCLUDING LUCIO LARA WHO PRESENTED AMBASSADOR EASUM TO NETO AT RECEPTION FOR USHER (PARA 3). LARA EXPLAINED TO NETO THAT HE AND AMBASSADOR HAD MET TOGETHER IN LUANDA LAST DECEMBER. AMBASSADOR TRIED SEVERAL PLOYS TO ENGAGE NETO IN PRODUCTIVE CONVERSATION, INCLUDING REFERENCE TO THEIR BOTH HAVING ATTENDED ZAMBIAN INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY LAST OCTOBER, BUT NETO ONLY RESPONDED WITH POLITE NOISES.

3. BOTH ETEKI AND NETO WERE GUESTS AT RECEPTION GIVEN BY FMG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMISSIONER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ARIKPO FOR VISITING IVORY COAST FOREIGN MINISTER ARSENE USHER EVENING JUNE 30. USHER ARRIVED EARLIER IN DAY TO BEGIN SIX DAY OFFICIAL VISIT NIGERIA. MEA ANNOUNCEMENT SAID VISIT BEING MADE IN RETURN FOR ARIKPO'S 1973 VISIT IVORY COAST. DURING HIS STAY USHER WILL PAY COURTESY CALL ON GOWON AND WILL VISIT KANO STATE. HE TOLD NEWSMEN HE WOULD FURTHER EXPLORE ABIDJAN'S INTEREST IN PURCHASING NIGERIAN CRUDE OIL WITH FMG OFFICIALS. (SUBJECT

SEPTEL) VISIT IS SEEN HERE AS ATTEMPT FURTHER SOLIDIFY MUCH
IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN ABIDJAN AND LAGOS AND BUILD ON GOOD
RAPPORT ESTABLISHED BETWEEN HOUPHOUET AND GOWON DURING ECOWAS
MEET. ACCORDING FRENCH AMBASSADOR, HOUPHOUET DECIDED DURING
ECOWAS CONFERENCE TO SEND USHER TO NIGERIA AT THIS TIME AS
FOLLOW-UP TO PRESIDENT'S MEETINGS WITH GOWON. WE EXPECT USHER
TO MAKE SOME EFFORT ESTABLISH FIRM DATES FOR GOWON'S PROMISED
VISIT TO IVORY COAST.
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